



Enough is our Concordia University Texas theme for the 2023-2024 academic year.

CONNECT

with self and others:

A \$100 bill, a \$20 bill and a \$1 bill meet up at the shredder at the end of their lives. The \$100 says, "I've seen the whole world during my lifetime. Why, I've been on cruises in the Caribbean, safaris in Africa and vacations in Europe."

The 20 says, "Well, I haven't done quite as well, but I have been to Atlantic City, Disneyland and Starbucks." They both turn to the \$1 bill and ask, "How about you?"

Not wanting to be outdone, it says, "I've seen the whole country as well. I've been from church to church to church..."

Then the 100 asks, "What's a church?"

1. What is your relationship to money and generosity?
2. Is money good, bad, or neither? Why do you think that?
3. Is money good, bad, or neither? Why do you think that?



ENGAGE

the Word:

Talking about money at church, in church, or about the amounts we give is pretty taboo to many. However, did you know that Jesus talked about money/resources/possessions in 11 of the 39 recorded parables and about 15% of his recorded sermons dealt with this topic.

I don't know what your personal giving looks like but college is a great time to reflect on what models of generosity you have seen or have not seen as a child. And then decide how you want to live in response to all that God has given you.

NOTES: _____

ENOUGH

WEEK 8

IS THIS
- ENOUGH? -

As a young boy, I still remember my parents putting checks into the offering plate at church a few times a year, each with substantial 0's on them. However, I didn't see them give weekly or monthly. Now, as an adult with kids of my own, I tell my kids, "I just want you to know that your Mom and I give monthly a portion of our income to God, but we give online."

A student leader recently said on this topic: "When we give it's like God is touching the money a second time. The first time is when he gives it to us, it all comes from Him, and then when we give some of it back to him, it's His second time to hold it. It's all from Him."

Today's story, a widow who would have been the most vulnerable in the society, gave everything she had in her wallet and her bank account as an offering before God. She gave it all.

READ
Mark 12:41-44

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

- Mark 12:41-44

We can talk about time, talent and treasures all together, but let's stick to reflecting specifically on treasures. Jesus uses the money sacrifice of a widow to illustrate for His disciples the character of absolute dependence on God. Wealth and possession can pose a spiritual threat - wealth has a way of owning its possessor. Jesus' love and sacrifice motivate us to offer our whole lives to Him as our daily offering of gratitude. He gave up everything, including His life, on the cross for us. As the hymn goes, "Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee; Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise." (LSB 783:1) (ESV The Lutheran Study Bible Notes, p. 1685)

NOTES: _____

SHARE:
apply to your life.

- 1.** The widow was showing an in her character, "an absolute dependence on God." How is dependence linked to generosity and money?
- 2.** What are you currently giving back to God in your tithe or offerings? (only share if you are willing, no pressure)
- 3.** What are some of the benefits you have experienced of being generous with your money?
- 4.** How specifically do you desire to grow in your generosity of giving "All We Have" despite the fact that the stereotype is that you are a "poor college student?" And how can someone else help in this process of surrender?

